

NEW EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2012/13

Your Parish Councillors

The Parish Council is made up of ten Councillors and a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer who works part time.

The ten serving Councillors are:-

Cllr Don Crawford (Chairman)	Cllr Elizabeth Jefferson
Cllr Vic Atkins	Cllr Richard Revell (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Tony Baker	Cllr Carol Runciman
Cllr Sue Glenton	Cllr Audrey Steel
Cllr Lorraine Frankland	Cllr Andrew Thorpe

In October 2012 Cllr Norman Davidson resigned from the Parish Council as he would no longer be working in New Earswick. Members co-opted Sue Glenton of Alder Way in February 2013 as his replacement.

To contact any of the above Councillors please do so via the Clerk in the first instance:

Sally Bruckshaw
c/o The Folk Hall
New Earswick
York
YO32 4AQ

Office Telephone: 01904 758028
email: pcnewearswick@aol.com

Financial

Our precept for 2012/13 was set at £19,000 a reduction of £1,000 on the 2011/12 year. This sum was arrived at by looking at the expected expenditure for the forthcoming year and taking into account the reserves of the Council. Each year the accounts are examined at an independent internal audit and then passed to the external auditors. The accounts are available for inspection by prior arrangement with the Clerk. The Finance Committee of the Council meets regularly and ensures that any recommendations made by the auditors are carried out.

Donations

During this financial year grants totalling £8463.39 have been offered to a number of organisations as follows:-

New Earswick Community Association (NECA) received two grants totalling £5500 towards the Gardening Scheme that assists eligible residents with garden maintenance.

NECA also received a grant of £1060 towards the cost of hiring coaches for the Summer Scheme that they run. In addition the sum of £800 was awarded to assist with the cost of the annual Christmas Party held in New Earswick

The Good Life Project received a grant of £453.39 towards a planting scheme on Willow Bank.

Two newly formed local groups also received financial assistance:-

£300 towards Earwigs, a stay and play drop in session for Under Fives and New Earswick Sharing Together (NEST) received £100 towards their first project.

In addition £250 was given to the Royal British Legion to support its work in the Parish.

Financial Agreement Forms are completed by the organisations, which specify that any unused funds (for the purpose for which they were donated) must be returned to this Council. Also, regular reports are requested by the Council on the progress of the projects.

During the previous financial year a grant was given to New Earswick Primary School as the school clock, an important landmark in the village, required urgent repairs. This work has now been completed to mark the Centenary Year of the school being established and a plaque installed to mark the historic event.

Environment

Community Walkabouts take place with members from: New Earswick Parish Council, City of York Council (Street Scene and Ward Councillors), Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust (JRHT) and sometimes the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The group meet monthly and cover a designated area of the Parish each time. Any issues in the area (e.g. garden maintenance, litter, dog-fouling, traffic issues, pot-holes, Rights of Way maintenance, graffiti, bus shelters etc.) are then taken up by the specific organisation responsible and dealt with. Notes of the meetings are kept on file by the Clerk.

Unfortunately, the problem with dog fouling continues in New Earswick, as in many communities. Sadly irresponsible dog owners do not clean up after their animals and several complaints have been received by the Parish Council. There are a number of waste bins situated in the village. We continue to work with the City of York Council on this problem and information will be passed on with a view to offenders being issued with fixed penalty notices or fines.

Membership

We continue to be members of various local and national groups and societies that are relevant to the work of the Council including:-

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
River Foss Society
Open Spaces Society
Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)
Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA)

Members of the Parish Council attend meetings of these and other external organisations as required.

Projects and Events

During 2012 the Country celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. To commemorate this occasion all of the children attending New Earswick Primary School and the Pre-School received a jubilee mug funded by the Parish Council.

The Good Life Initiative, a project run by the Stockholm Environment Institute co-ordinated by the University of York initiated a number of events including the Jubilee Leaf Planting on Willow Bank.

In addition the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Housing Trust established a project called Neighbourhood Approaches to Loneliness. New Earswick was chosen as one of four areas* for this study aiming to increase the well being and support for people who experience loneliness. Particular emphasis has been placed on increasing and facilitating community activities. (*The Carr Estate in Acomb and two areas in Bradford are also involved.)

Policing

The Safer Neighbourhood Team is made up of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's). The PCSO's regularly patrol on foot and visit the schools and local groups/organisations to integrate into the local community. Crime figures are also sent to this Parish Council whenever possible by PCSO John Iemboli. To contact John please, telephone the 101 number followed by Option 2 and ask for 3534.

The Police have a number of active operations in the Parish including targeting anti-social behaviour, auto-crime and the theft of metal and scrap. The Police also offer crime prevention advice to residents and property marking schemes.

Consultation

The Parish Council is consulted by the City of York Council on planning applications for properties within the Parish. The Parish Council also responds to the City of York Council and other organisations regarding policies and proposals that concern the Parish.

Representatives of York St. John University have attended meetings with Parish Council Members to explain their proposals for the land at Haxby Road that had been acquired by the University

Several Members of the Parish Council have been consulted about the development of Red Lodge and a number of visits have been made to existing schemes elsewhere that might help guide the re-development plans. To date no firm planning proposals have been issued.

Meetings

Please do come along and contribute to our meetings. They are held every third Monday in the month (except December) at our office in the Folk Hall, commencing at 19.00 hours.

Cllr Don Crawford (Chairman) 15 April, 2013